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Master Techniques:

Pressing Tips
Issue # 126
The goal of pressing is to shape the fabric, not flatten it
— with Ann Steeves

Making and Using a Muslin
Use a muslin as your laboratory for a better fitting garment
— with Sarah Veblen

Accurate Darts without Permanent Marks
Use pins to transfer darts from pattern to fabric, and tape to mark the stitching line
— with Shirley Smith

All-in-One Piping and Facing
Issue #104
Piped bias binding doubles as facing and trim
— with Sally Silvers

Manuel's Piped Pockets
Issue #103
Straight or curved, stitch the welts and form the pocket
— with Manuel

Free-Motion Embroidery Technique
Issue #103
An embroidered design starts with a drawing by designer Manuel and ends with the skilled hands and feet and knees of free-motion embroiderer Pancho Martinez
— with Manuel

Conquering Inset Corners
Issue #101
Cotton organdy ensures a smooth sharp turn
— with Shirley Smith

Embellishment with Paint Sticks
Issue #123
Surface rubbings over a textured surface transform fabrics
— with Laura Murray

Do-it-Yourself Crushed Velvet
Issue #111
Use your iron to enhance the texture and bring out the color of this elegant fabric
— with Christine Jonson

Boutis Provencal
Issue #105
Stitch first, stuff later -- this sophisticated cousin to quilting makes a textured and completely reversible fabric
— with Marie Yolande

Variable Width Facing on a Decorative Edge
Issue #101
Overlapping a brightly colored facing adds interest and style to your garment
— with Diane Ericson

Cut Synthetics with a Hot Tool
The low melting point of synthetic shell fabrics makes cutting overlays with a hot tool a simple job
— with Rochelle Harper

Make a Classic Leather Seam
Contact cement, a wallpaper roller, and a Q-tip don't sound like sewing notions, but they help to make a perfect seam in leather
— with Sandy Scrivano

Design Details with Fleece Cording
Cording made from fleece is especially effective for finishing irregular edges
— with Rochelle Harper

Two Custom Trims for Your Garments (or home)
Pair basic materials with simple sewing to create fringe for adornment
— with Linda Lee

A Turtleneck Finish for Knits
Issue #106
Create a smooth, professional-looking edge that stretches
— with Sarah Veblen

A Neckline Binding for Knits
Issue #106
As when attaching a turtleneck, you divide the neckline and binding each into quarters, then stretch the binding to fit the neckline
— with Sarah Veblen

Straightening the Grain on Fluid Fabrics
Before cutting, the crossgrain and the lengthwise grain need to be ruler straight
— with Sarah Veblen

Pressing Templates for a Sharp Edge
Create a precise smooth edge on bands, hems, and patch pockets
— with Linda Lee

An Easy Flat Fly Front Zipper
Ignore the pattern instructions and use this simplified version for "ready-to-wear" results.
— with Sandra Betzina